Dear Sir

Poughkeepsie May 6th 1782

I have invariably been opposed to taking any part of the Levies directed to be raised for the Defence of the frontiers, to compleat the continental Battalions. I conceived the whole force inadequate to the Service for which they were originally intended and of course that any Diminution of it would be extremely improper and might be attended with fatal Consequences. This Sentiment I never failed to mention to any Person with whom I had an Opportunity of conversing on the Subject while the Measure was under consideration even until the rising of the Legislature but without any good Effect I foresaw too the Inconveniencies which would naturally attend making the Detachments, especially from the frontier Regiments and which you will observe by the Orders inclosed in my last, it is my Desire as far as possible consistent with Justice & my Duty under the Law may be avoided. I had it in contemplation to make the Detachments wholly from this County & other Districts not immediately exposed to the Incursions of the Enemy, but upon more mature consideration of the Subject Doubts arose in my Mind whether the Measure would be warranted by the Law which directs that the Detachments shall be made from the Levies at large leaving in my Opinion, the Mode only in my Discretion. I would not however argue from this that I am bound to wait for the Returns of the Levies raised by each Regiment & make the Detachments from them exactly in that Proportion; for if this was the Case the whole Business might be defeated by the Default of a single Regiment & this therefore would be a dangerous Construction But admit the Power of making the Detachments arbitrarily from any District the Necessity of extending them to Albany County will still exist. There are 39 Regiments only in the State including those of Tryon Charlotte Westchester & Orange most of which being from their Situation much reduced are very small. It was computed that the Regiments on an average would form 40 Classes each - this would produce the

1500 Men Directed to be raised with an addition of 60 which was
Deemed a moderate Allowance for Casualties. Dutchess Ulster
Orange & Westchester having only 18 Regts — These Counties therefore
on the above Computation will produce 720 Men. By the Adjt
Generals Returns the Deficiency of your Regt appears to be
something upwards of 700. In the Recital of the Law it stood at 700
so that if the Detachments were confined to these Counties it would
take the whole of their Levies to make up the Deficiency without
leaving a single Man for the Defence of their frontiers This therefore
could not have been the intention of the Legislature & would be so
partial & unjust a procedure as to merit Censure & give just Cause
for Discontent & Clamour. In the District which is to compose
Westchester Regt the Regts of this County & Woodhulls & Hathorns of
Orange are the only ones that are not in the strictest Sense frontier
Regimts. In the District which is to form your Regt there is at least
an equal number of unexposed Regts and if the spirit of my Orders for Detaching
are attended to it will be discovered that it is my Desire as far as is
practicable without doing Injustice & creating Discontent that a
Discrimination be made in favor of the frontier Regts and you will
readily perceive, if practicable it might not have been so prudent or so
promotive of the public Service to have prescribed more particular Rules
for making the Detachments as to have submitted as I have much to
the Discretion of the Officer who is immediately charged with the execution
of this Business. I would only add, had it been in my Power to have
wholly exempted the frontier Regts from Detachments it might have
been extremely improper & injurious to have done it; for some of
the Classes of those Regts may & I doubt not will engage Men who
through they cannot be rejected yet from their Connections and
other Circumstances it may be more [illegible]
in the more Regts than retain on the frontiers — This I know to be
the Case both in Ulster & Orange

RW 1167
NS Ch.C.1.119